

## FRANCE AND CHINA.

The transfer for practical purposes of the suzerainty of Annam and Tonquin from China to France opens a new chapter in international relations in the far East, the remoter consequences of which it would be presumptuous, at this early stage, to pretend to grasp, but the nearer ones may well challenge attention. The change in the status of France which will result from these new possessions is a matter of practical interest to all nations having commerce with the East, but more especially to England. After the lapse of a century, Duplex's dream of Asiatic empire seems in a fair way of realization. France's relations with Cochin China, indeed, go back nearly two centuries, and their record shows that Russia has no monopoly of that staying power whereby a clearly conceived national policy is followed up with undeviating purpose through fair weather and foul, and from one generation to another. And the persistence of the French in their territorial movements in the far East is the more remarkable in that it has survived dynastic changes and political cataclysms gathering definiteness and strength from each reflux of the tide. It is only by taking a bird's-eye view of the movement as a whole that particular episodes can be justly appreciated, for it is thus seen that the historical development of the idea neither depends on accidental circumstances nor on any individual will, but follows a natural law toward the fulfilment of which many actors co-operate who are for the most part unconscious of the value of their separate contributions.

The spread of French colonial enterprise in the East will have a sensible influence on the relations of France to Egypt, for the material interests which she will have in Asia will enable—indeed, compel—France to claim a voice in the management of the Suez Canal founded on something better than the sentiment that it was cut by a French engineer. This changed position, if judiciously considered by English Government, cannot but be to the advantage of England, since an interest that can be measured and weighed, and is capable of arithmetical expression, is one that can be intelligently dealt with.

## FISHING.

It is curious to reflect that, in these beautiful western waters, teeming with fish of every kind, so few people care to go fishing. The methods employed are also so rude that one is not surprised at the lack of interest taken in fishing. We have masses of huge fish here, and plenty of people who would gladly get together at stated times and combine social enjoyment with the capture of the finny monarchs of these warm waters. If a society were formed we could easily add greatly to the ichthyology of the islands. We will give a year's subscription to this paper free to any man who can go with us to the fish market to-morrow and name the fishes there in English. The fish in these waters will puzzle the best ichthyologist. There are huge pampans here, which must have wandered from Monterey or New Orleans. There is the Australian Snapper, which passing through different waters from his home, 7,000 miles away, has assumed an entirely different shape. And there are fifty species of fish that no one ever saw outside of these waters. We propose to contribute all the knowledge possible to this subject, which is valuable from even a national point of view.

## THE NEW LIBRARY.

The community ought to be very proud of its new library. It is going in the near future to distribute a wealth of good all through this island. It will teach those who have hitherto neglected books to learn to love them. It will open the minds of thousands to the best works of history and fiction, and be a place of repose for the traveler and citizen, and of reference for the student. It is constructed specially with reference to the climate, and by its ventilating apparatus secures a free draught of air. Honolulu can now be congratulated on possessing a public library unsectarian, open to all, and admirably adapted to the wants of the city. Now

let everyone who is liberally disposed send along a book or two. If some of them are duplicates, which is not likely, there will be no harm done. Only now that the building is finished it is a public duty to fill it with books. There are 3000 volumes there now, we believe. Let us swell the library to 6000 solid books!

## RELIGION AND POLITICS.

The *Bulletin* on Saturday took unto itself a great deal of trouble in connection with some remarks of the *Advertiser* on Portuguese immigration and the Fort Street Church. The *Bulletin* accuses us of making a wild onslaught upon the portion of the membership of that organization. There was nothing of heat in our argument. We calmly stated what we believed to be a fact, and what every unprejudiced member of this community believes, that politics have been allowed to control, in a measure, this otherwise very worthy religious organization. This is not an onslaught, but simply an exercise of the right to criticize, which is the province of every public journal. The *Bulletin* interviewed several prominent members of the community. One of these gentlemen, whose name is not mentioned, "added that if it was a question of religion he, for one, would prefer Roman Catholics to Pagans." This was kind and liberal on the part of this broad-minded Christian, and we are sure that if the utterer of this noble statement would but give his name the Roman Catholics of the city would present him with a vote of thanks.

So far as a refutation of our arguments on this question the *Bulletin* contained positively nothing. Our assertions were not made with the view of creating a religious discussion, and our opinions are those of the majority who have given this topic their serious and impartial attention.

## ARTISTS.

It is a life-long study to watch the habits of musicians, for, after a certain stage, they are usually as really ridiculous to the world at large in proportion as they are really great in their art. It would be idle to analyze or seek into the causes of this, but it is nevertheless a fact. It would be wrong and invidious to particularize and kinder to note some very precious exceptions. Madame Anna Bishop was one of the most modest of all artists in her appreciation of her talents. We have seen her move an immense audience to tears by singing "Home, Sweet Home," and be apparently unconscious that she had done anything wonderful. The same may be said of Christine Nilsson, whose habits are as simple as that of a village girl, yet hundreds of thousands of persons have been touched to the quick by her rendition of "Way down upon the Swanee Ribber." There are, of course, many others—the good Titiens, who is dead, Madame Jenny Lind, and dozens of other lovely characters whom we could mention, such as Anna Mehlig, Sivori, the pupil, or at least protegee of Paganini, whose immense talents were united to the most perfect gentleness, humility and modesty. But here praise ceases, and we get at the vast multitude of conceited pianists, vocalists, lyric artists and fiddlers who travel with lap dogs and small bottles of champagne, or who are ecclesiastically severe and model their personal appearance on the pictures of the great Liszt. Positively, very few artists come here who do not consider themselves greater than any monarch living, and a great many of them imagine that their breasts ought to be covered with orders so thickly that their shirts would be invisible. Levy, the great cornet player, has been decorated eighteen or nineteen times, Remenyi seven times and Wilhelmj a score of times, we believe. Remenyi is a quiet gentleman who still woos his art, but we have seen Levy, after a concert, in a San Francisco restaurant eating a fifteen-cent sandwich, blazing with medals that put the gas to shame and made him the laughing-stock of every one in the *salon*. The peripatetic necessities of their lives and constant change of scene; the nightly applause and newspaper flattery have turned many artists' heads, although some to the last remain unchanged and

die contentedly in harness. Germany is, to a large extent, responsible for spoiling rising artists, for one success of a graduate at Leipzig in a Gewandhaus concert leads him to believe that he is a Rubinstein, a Neils Gade or a Brahms; that he could teach Mendelssohn, correct Beethoven and Haydn, and give Mozart lessons in counterpoint.

## THE FOO-CHOW ARSENAL.

The most sensational news received by the last steamer is the report of the bombardment of the Foo-Chow arsenal on the river Min by the French fleet under the command of Admiral Courbet. Although the telegrams before us are very full and even repetitive, they are nevertheless somewhat misleading with regard to the situation of places. The city of Foo-Chow is thirty-four miles from the seaboard, while the scene of the destruction of the Chinese ships-of-war commenced near the entrance of the river, at the Kim Pai pass, at the Min Gan pass, and terminated at the arsenal, which is twenty miles from Foo-Chow proper. Above this point war vessels of great draught could not possibly ascend. The dispatches tell us that as the French fleet moved up the river they shelled the barracks and the various camps and old forts without receiving any response. It is further stated that the French Consulate was looted by Chinese soldiers, but this will require confirmation, as the Consulate is at least thirteen miles away from the arsenal.

The whole affair is retaliation on the part of France for the Langson affair, which has been generally justified, whereas this wholesale slaughter near Foo-Chow has been universally condemned in America and Europe. War has not been declared since the close of the Tonquin difficulty, but an indemnity has been demanded. This filibustering seems to be the result of an impetuous admiral and a desperate people, who have no fear of death and no appreciation of their own practical weakness when they are opposed to and attacked by a powerful nation like France.

England is reported to be in sympathy with the Chinese, and Bismarck's name is mentioned as a mediator. So far it would appear that England's trade with China, which is eighty per cent. of the whole, has not been affected, but if the difficulty continues serious complications must undoubtedly arise between two, and possibly three, of the greatest naval powers in the world. The trade of France with China is merely nominal.

It is a strange coincidence that the Foo-Chow arsenal was built and destroyed by Frenchmen. In 1864 Lieut. Prosper Giquel, then holding the office of Commissioner of Customs in the Chinese Revenue Service, suggested to the great General Li Hung Chang that China should establish her own arsenals and ship building yards. Li concurred with the French officer's suggestion and Mons. Giquel was deputed to proceed forthwith to France to procure the material and labor and mechanics necessary for the work. In 1866, what might be termed a French colony was established on the site of the recently demolished arsenal on the river Min. What was formerly a swamp and a morass full of rushes was speedily raised six feet above high water mark. Roads were laid out, residences built and factories established. Schools were started and civilization progressed, and it is from the Foo-Chow arsenal that the Chinese men-of-war were launched. All the really skilled labor was performed by Frenchmen, with Chinese subordinates, and the machinery employed was of French manufacture. Even the Chinese gunboats are of French model and the armaments came from France. After creating this arsenal and shipyard, on which China expended fifteen millions of dollars to start with, a French Admiral has seen fit to destroy this costly institution and to inform his government that his men, who have extirpated and sunk an insignificant lot of gun boats, are full of ardor.

Bismarck will find the Asiatic cholera more formidable than the American hog.

Horses and cattle bit by mad dogs at Stroudsburg, Pa., and showing signs of hydrophobia, had to be shot.

## VARIGNY'S "FOURTEEN YEARS IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS."

[CONTINUED.]

"Mr. J. P. Green and Dr. Judd supported these views which were warmly combatted by some of the delegates and by a majority of the Nobles. The Attorney-General, in the name of the King, refuted the objections raised, dealing chiefly with the legal aspects of the question. The sittings of 12th and 13th July were lively and excited. On either side the discussion grew warmer, and a majority among the delegates, following the chiefs of the Opposition, threatened us with an irremediable check. Under such auspices opened the sitting of the 14th, the King presiding as usual. Since the 11th he had not spoken, and contented himself with attentively following the course of the debate. At the commencement of the sitting he sent me the following note:—'Speak, and go to the very bottom of the discussion; the time has arrived to make known to the delegates that is on the advice of the Judges of the Supreme Court that this method of revising the Constitution has been adopted. Maintain the sovereign power of the Convention, and, if necessary, produce the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 3rd March. I am going to say a few words to the Convention, speak after me.'

"Then, rising amid a profound silence, the King expressed himself as follows:—'Nobles and delegates of the people, I rise to speak to the resolution of the delegate for South Kona; the effect of which is that we, the elements which compose this Convention, should say we have no authority to amend the Constitution. Much stress has been laid on the wording of the Royal Proclamation; but it is in my opinion perfectly correct. The word 'revision' means amendment and alteration, and the word was used in that sense in the Proclamation. It has not been exactly stated what is intended to be done, and the Convention does not at present know what was intended; but I was about to present a project of the Constitution when the resolution of the delegate from South Kona came up. The position which I take to-day is that we take for granted that there was some supreme authority existing when the Constitution of 1852 was passed. That supreme power must exist somewhere now, and where must we look for it if it is not here within these four walls; therefore I cannot consent to the assertion that we have not that authority. The delegate from South Kona said yesterday he could not sit here and approve of any modification of the Constitution, and I must take it that he has expressed the views of his constituents, and if such be the case he has no more business to do here, and if he pleases to go he has the power to do so.'

"My task was certainly a difficult one. As it had gone on, the discussion had become embittered, and many of the speakers had made declarations so clear and decided that it would be difficult to go back from them. It was necessary at one and the same time to inspire them with the desire to do so, and to afford them the means. To attain the first of these ends I believed it wise to insist above all on the responsibility which they would incur in regard to their constituents. I pointed out that in calling them to the work before them the King had voluntarily abdicated a part of his authority, and had invited them to a task from which his predecessor had excluded them. Did they intend to declare by their apparent refusal of help that it was to the King alone, or to the King and the Nobles, that this authority belonged? So be it. It was for them to say so plainly, and to reject in the name of the people, of whom they were the representatives, a concession which other peoples had often demanded with arms in their hands. Then, affecting to see in the controversy only a misunderstanding which a frank and loyal explanation would dissipate, I added that by the King's order, and to put an end to honorable scruples, I was authorized to state that the Judges of the Supreme Court, who had been consulted by us in their capacity as guardians of the Constitution, had officially counselled the calling of the Convention as the sole legal and practical method of revising the Constitution of 1852, and to

make that revision the common work of the three orders, and so taking from it the character of a mere charter granted by the sovereign.

"The Attorney-General then took up the debate in order to insist on the legal side of the question, and did so with great ability. In vain the leaders of the Opposition tried to keep their adherents together, it was evident that they had lost ground, and that the delegates drew back in face of the responsibility which we were determined to make them accept. Messrs. Judd and Gulick deemed themselves fortunate to score an adjournment of the discussion until the next day.

"The next day's sitting commenced with a speech from Robertson, and the reading of a letter from Judge Davis. Both ratified any statement of the previous evening. One of the delegates then proposed to pass to the order of the day on the motion of the delegate from South Kona. This proposition was lost on the voices. The discussion was taken up again vigorously. We only needed two more votes among the delegates to carry the day. The Attorney-General and myself went over again the arguments of the day before, pushing our opponents still more closely than before. The leaders of the Opposition felt the ground slipping from under their feet. They struggled energetically, but with little hope. At the beginning they had 22 votes out of 27. A vote which had been taken (on the indefinite postponement of Mr. Gulick's resolution) gave them 14 against 13. At length we demanded a division on the motion itself; it took place amidst a scene of great excitement. The hall was filled with a crowd of the public, anxious to learn the result of a discussion which had deeply interested the masses. The victory was complete; 6 delegates voted for the resolution and 21 against it. The Nobles voted unanimously against it, and so did the King.

"The next day two of the most advanced members of the Opposition, Messrs. Gulick and Parker, tendered their resignations which were accepted.

"Decisive as was the success, we could not ignore the fight that had to be undertaken. It had not taken us less than ten days and strong efforts to arrive at this result, which we owed in a great measure to the energetic attitude of the King, and the indefatigable perseverance of the Attorney-General, Mr. Harris. All the weight of the discussion fell on him and myself, and we did not receive the assistance from our colleagues which we had the right to expect. Chosen by the King to speak in his name, and consequently called upon to lead the debates, this altogether temporary position isolated us somewhat from Mr. Wyllie and Mr. Hopkins. The former became very unpopular since his unfortunate tour with the King, and much irritated by the attack of the Press and the Opposition, spoke often, but with violence, and it was always with dread that we saw him rise. His age and rank obliged us to confine ourselves to a few respectful remonstrances, of which he took little heed. He was a dangerous and compromising ally.

"Mr. Hopkins scarcely concealed his discontent at not having been the object of the King's choice. He was wrong to envy us this perilous favor, which would, moreover, have ill-served his habitual laziness. A good speaker in his day, popular among the natives, whose language he spoke very well, and whose customs and way of life he had adopted, held in but moderate esteem as a politician by the white population, he assisted with indifference at the sittings of the Convention and affected to hold himself apart, and absented himself at decisive moments. We told him our opinion pretty frankly about this, but that was the only satisfaction we could get. Discontented with himself and with us, he wished to take care of himself for better times, and speculated, I believe, on our fall, which he looked upon as inevitable.

"Amongst the public, however, the truth began to become apparent; people understood better the end that we aimed at. They did justice to our good faith, and our arguments, born of strong convictions, had rallied and aroused us a good many adherents among the masses, at first disposed to be somewhat hostile. To put an